

## Japanese Garden to Host Annual Origami Festival on July 13



Individuals will have the opportunity to learn the art of origami, or paper folding from some of Southern California's professional teachers and enthusiasts on Sunday, July 13, at the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden at CSULB. The Origami Festival, scheduled from noon to 4 p.m., will feature activities inspired by the upcoming 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

The festival will explore the connection of origami to Chinese culture in celebration of the Olympic host city of Beijing. This is a natural extension as both paper and origami were invented in China. Two of the most famous origami folds include the crane and the turtle and along with the famous dragon, symbolize good luck, long life, and prosperity in both China and Japan. Participants will learn how to fold these wonderful creatures

as well as pandas, peony flowers and other symbols of Chinese culture which Japan later adopted. More than 40 experts from local and national origami clubs and enthusiasts will teach guests of all ages and skill levels how to make origami creations. The exciting thing about origami is that it is completely multicultural and multigenerational. Paper will be provided free of charge to the public.

The art of Kirigami, folded paper that is then cut, will also be explored at the festival. Learn to create classic Chinese patterns found on jade jewelry and architectural carved beams.

"The Japanese Garden is excited to share in the Olympic celebration of 'One World, One Dream' with an event that embraces all cultures and ages for the diverse population of Long Beach," said the garden's education coordinator Alison Redfoot.

The Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden is located on the CSULB campus on Earl Warren Drive, across from lot 16 and parking is free in non-metered spaces in that lot. Reservations are not required. Admission is for \$7 adults, \$6 seniors, \$5 Japanese Garden members, children 12 and under free. For more information call the Japanese Garden at 562/985-8420.

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